

FOR WOMEN AND HOME

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR MAIDS AND MATRONS

How to Clean Ribbons—Stylish Waist—Theater Gown—Value of Space in Rooms—When You Hang Your Pictures, Few Good Hints.

She Walks in Beauty.
(Old Favorite Series.)
She walks in beauty like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meets in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

She shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face—
Where thoughts serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear, their dwelling place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent.
—Lord Byron.

How to Clean Ribbons.

Now that ribbons are so extensively worn it is quite worth while to know how to clean them successfully and easily. The two methods here given have been put to the practical test many times over, so there need be no hesitancy about trying either one through fear of failure or of unsatisfactory results. The first method is exceedingly simple, and answers the purpose for all except white ribbons or those that are very badly mussed. Fill in glass fruit jar about half full of gasoline—more or less, according to the amount of ribbon to be cleaned. Place the soiled ribbons in it—all colors, lengths and kinds may go in at once—and screw the cover on tightly. Shake the bottle occasionally and leave it closed for from two to six hours or over night. Then take out the ribbons, shake each one well and hang it to dry in the open air. The ribbons will be clean and the dirt will be found on the bottom of the jar. Of course, the ribbons need a thorough airing and sun bath to remove the odor of the gasoline, but that is all. No pressing is required, as the gasoline does not affect them as water would. The clear gasoline should be poured off without disturbing that at the bottom; then the dirt which has settled at the bottom should be emptied out and the clear gasoline put back, ready for use another time. Keep it tightly covered, and, of course, never use it near a fire, because of the danger of its igniting. The gasoline will turn white ribbons yellow, so this method is not advisable for them. It also leaves the ribbons in the same condition as it found them as regards their being mussed or crumpled, so those that are badly creased should be given the treatment that is accorded the white ribbons. Prepare a suds of soft water and any pure soap, wash the ribbon in this, just as you would wash a fine handkerchief, rinse and let it partially dry. Take it down while still damp in all parts and roll it smoothly over a wide card or piece of pasteboard, rolling a piece of clean white muslin so that the ribbon shall be round last, so that the ribbon shall be covered, and place the whole under a heavy weight. A letter press is an excellent place in which to press it. Leave it until it shall have had time to dry. The muslin will absorb the moisture. The ribbon will come out looking fresh and clean, and will have lost none of its "life," as is the case with ribbons which are pressed with an iron. If a good soap is used the colors will not run, and this process takes out the creases as well as removes the dirt.

A correspondent of "Figaro," writing from Madrid, gives a very favorable account of the present condition of Spain, which he says "is making rapid progress toward recovery, after a series of cruel disasters." The tendencies to disorder have subsided; the danger of revolution has passed; under the influence of a well-balanced budget, public credit is improving; the personal worth and practical wisdom of the queen regent have "made her the one fixed point around which all the wishes of Spain and all the sympathies of Europe gravitate"; and her son Alfonso, who will ascend the throne in two or three years, gives fine promise of intelligence, courage, and virtue.

It is noticeable that all the great generals, either of the past or present, have been known to the public and their soldiers by some familiar nickname. Lord Roberts' sobriquet of "Bobs" is the most popular name to conjure with just now in South Africa, just as "Le Petit Corporal" was the watchword for Napoleon's legions. Frederick the Great was dubbed by his soldiers "Our Fritz," and the duke of Wellington, who gained the confidence but never the affection of his troops, was known as "Old Nosey"—an uncomplimentary allusion to his most prominent feature—just as "Stonewall" Jackson and "Marshal Vorwarts" expressed the most noticeable characteristics of Jackson and Blucher respectively.

It is estimated that the state of Maryland lost \$3,000,000 during the past season through the ravages of the pea-louse, which, Prof. W. G. Johnson of the Maryland Agricultural college says is an insect new to science. It belongs to the well-known group of the aphides, or plant-lice, and on account of some change in conditions has become suddenly abundant, appearing for the first time on the cultivated pea. It is of a green color, and only an eighth of an inch long. It sucks the juices from the leaf and stem, and the plant dies. Not only in Maryland have growers of peas suffered, but in New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Virginia, North Carolina and Connecticut also. Fortunately the pea-louse has many insect enemies, which played havoc with it before the close of the season.

By the action of the senate in ratifying The Hague peace treaty, the United States now stands before the world as a nation no less ready to practice than to preach arbitration. Its promptness in accepting the invitation to The Hague, the eminence of those who represented the country, its commanding position as one of the great powers of the world, and the government's well-known advocacy of the principle of arbitration, all tend to invest the action of the senate with peculiar significance. By it we have now shown our good faith, and other nations may follow. The aim of the treaty, stripped of complicating details, is merely to make peace easier and war more difficult. It cannot compel peace, for it leaves each nation free to choose a course for itself; but it seeks to render the resort to arms the last resort.

In a Brussels street traversed by an electric tram-car it has been noticed that the trees on one side of the way begin to lose their foliage early in August, the leaves turning brown and dropping off. But in October the same trees begin to bud again, and sometimes even blossom. Meanwhile trees on the opposite side of the street are unaffected, losing their foliage late in the autumn and budding only in the spring. The cause of the anomaly is supposed to be leaking electric currents, which stimulate the growth of the trees affected.

STYLISH WAIST.



It is of embroidered crepe in the palest salmon tint, the dots being done in black silk. The decoration is composed of bias folds and rosettes of black mirror velvet and revers of richly embroidered chiffon. Worn with this fascinating bodice was a dainty turban in all white chiffon, with fluffy strings tied at the throat in a smart bow.

In the library it may serve as a receptacle for old newspapers and books that are not in frequent use. In the bedroom the box couch can still be impressed into service as a repository for shoes or best bodices and evening gowns.

Arranging Bric-a-Brac.
There can be no better decoration in a room than bric-a-brac, yet nothing so detracts from art as too much ornamentation. A New York society woman who has recently started a bureau where women just beginning housekeeping go and get ideas as to how they can best furnish their homes, said to your correspondent a few days ago: "The best plan in the world when purchasing bric-a-brac is to buy nothing that has no visible sphere of usefulness, or if this seems too broad a rule, to purchase only one of a kind of the useless articles. No woman who cares for the appearance of her room will have two of every kind of article. This gives a sameness to its decorative effect that is indescribably artistic. The day of 'matched' pieces is no more. Elegance consists in having things that are worth having, and just enough of them. If one takes to buying cheap china it will be found that it accumulates with startling rapidity, and in the end is only a nuisance."

Theater Gown.



Dull reddish purple smooth-faced cloth, laid in shallow vertical pleats, stitched down along the edges to the knees. Belt, yoke and stock of dull pastel pink panne velvet, the latter two being spangled with gold. Belt buckle of brass. Toque of white embroidered net, with ornamental spray of dull pink roses and shaded leaves.

OUR COOKING SCHOOL.

Apple Ginger.
Take two pounds hard apples, two pounds loaf sugar, one and one-half pints of water, one ounce of tincture of ginger. Boil the sugar and water to a syrup, adding the ginger when it boils. Dip the pared and cored apples into cold water, and boil them in the syrup until transparent. Put the

SCIENTIFIC TOPICS

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

Automatic Fountain Pen Filler—Novel Mouse Trap—The Fate of the Great Salt Lake—Electrical Research—Railroads as Plant Distributors.

The Fate of the Great Salt Lake.

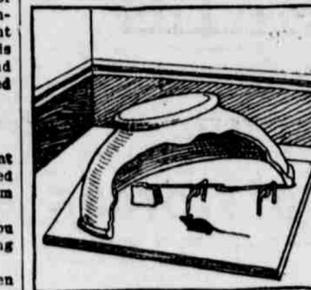
It is prophesied that before the end of another century the Great Salt Lake will be entirely dried up. The cause for this is said to be the excessive drain made upon it by the irrigation and enterprises of the Mormons. Contrary to the theory which was accepted for a time, this great lake is not fed by underground springs, but by the Jordan, Weber, Ogden and Bear rivers, and when the water of these streams is interrupted for irrigation purposes, it necessarily decreases the water supply of Salt Lake, leaving it more to the mercy of the sun and the attendant evaporation which is constantly going on, and which is slowly but surely drawing the water away until in time only a bed of dry salt will remain. The cause of the saltiness of the water of this mysterious body of water has been a matter of conjecture to scientists for years. The most plausible theory is that the saltiness is due to high altitude, which causes excessive evaporation, while there is practically no outlet to the lake. A scientist after a number of experiments has expressed the conviction that if all the salt supply in the entire world were cut off except that found in the bed of the Great Salt Lake, there would still be enough to last the world for ages, so deep is this deposit. Regarding the decadence of the lake, a writer recently said: When the Great Salt Lake is gone it will be missed as a wonder and as a salt factory, for little else. Its waters destroy vegetation instead of nourishing it. Should the fresh waters of Utah Lake, however, be evaporated or disappear into the earth thousands of square miles would cease to be habitable. Some years ago the Utah Lake region was made a government reservation, an act which has kept irrigation companies from drawing water either directly from it or from its feeders.—Irrigation Age.

Railroads as Plant Distributors.

It has been noticed that many plants, not natives of the locality, are to be found growing in the neighborhood of great railroad yards. Sometimes the seeds of these plants have been brought thousands of miles from their natural habitat. Often they flourish amid their new surroundings, and gradually spread over the surrounding country. Thus the railroads carry unsuspected emigrants, which travel to and from every point of the compass. In the Mississippi valley are to be found plants which, within a few years past, have been thus brought together, some from the Atlantic seaboard, some from the Gulf region, and some from the other side of the Rocky Mountains.

Novel Mousetrap.

A novel adaptation of an old principle is seen in the mousetrap here shown. The familiar bird and rabbit traps of youthful days are suggested in its arrangement, but the idea of using an ordinary bowl for the cage is brand new and constitutes its most unique feature. It is natural to suppose that a bowl would form a most effective trap, as its familiar shape and character would not arouse its



victim's suspicions, but would rather lead him to believe that everything was all right and that the bait so temptingly displayed had been providentially overlooked by the custodian of the larder. This bright idea has been developed by an inventor of Mapleton, N. D. The device consists, as shown, of a base board, carrying two supports and two levers, which interlock. The end of one engages with the end of the bowl and is maintained in its position by the other lever, which is supported by the bait. When the latter is removed, or ever jarred, the levers are released and the bowl falls, capturing the nibbler.

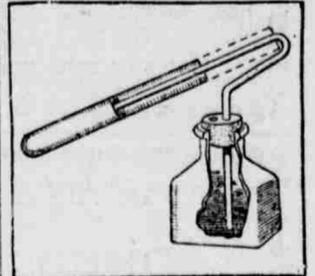
Doctors for Ailing Plants.

A writer in the Contemporary Review urges the need of a new class of educated physicians whose business shall be the care and cure of disease-threatened and disease-stricken plants. "The time will come," he says, "when every agricultural district will have its plant doctor." He even foresees the development of specialties by plant doctors just as by other physicians, so that in many difficult and obscure cases of disease affecting valuable plants, the services of such specialists will be employed. The foundation of schools of practical plant pathology is urged as a matter of national importance.

Automatic Fountain Pen Filler.

The usually disagreeable task of filling a fountain pen is made easy and the probability of ink-stained fingers

and spotted clothes reduced to a minimum by the filling device invented by an inventor of Hackensack, N. J. This ingenious arrangement consists of a bottle to hold the writing fluid and a stopper in which there are two perforations. Through one of these a slender tube, bent in the form shown, passes and extends to the bottom of the ink reservoir. At its extremity a piston is carried which, acting in conjunction with the barrel of the pen reservoir, forms a miniature suction pump. Its use is very simple. The top is unscrewed from the pen as usual and the piston placed in the barrel and pushed down to the bottom, thus expelling all the air, which escapes through the hollow tube carrying the piston, bubbling up through the ink and passing out through the opening in the stopper. Now, when the piston is drawn out of the barrel by the movement of the latter a vacuum is produced back of it, and this naturally draws or sucks the ink out of the bottle. The size of the filling tube and its shape are designed so that the operation of filling is practically automatic, just enough ink being drawn out to fill the barrel without overflowing it, the surplus falling back into the bottle,



leaving the device ready for the next operation.

Electrical Research.

Professor McAdie says that before long science will succeed in measuring the energy of a lightning flash, and also in demonstrating the nature of the aurora. That the aurora is an electrical phenomenon has long been recognized. An intimate relation seems to exist between the aurora and the sun spots. In 1882 the astronomer at Greenwich sent out notification of the appearance of an enormous sun spot on November 17 of that year. For three hours on the morning of that day not a wire of the Western Union Telegraph company could be used, and not even the market quotations could be distributed. At night there was a brilliant auroral display, and all telegraph service was again interrupted. Cables to Europe and wires to Chicago were alike unworkable; but some messages were sent as far as 700 miles by cutting off the batteries and utilizing the atmospheric electricity. Over half of North America, across the Atlantic and over northern Europe, it seemed as if legions of ethereal demons were busy inciting electric and magnetic apparatus to strange and miscellaneous antics. The artificial production of an electric fire-ball by Professor Richman is unique, though electricity in this form is not unfamiliar. Sometimes such balls are seen to run along the surface of the sea, and when they appear on land they usually burst with a loud noise, often with disastrous effects. Nobody has yet been able to explain these balls, which appear to be a very concentrated form of electricity. When the experts say, as most of them do, that electricity is merely a form of motion, the explanation is more or less unsatisfactory, but how is one to account for the presentation of a form of motion in the shape of a luminous sphere?—Boston Transcript.

Corn-Stalks Turned to Account.

The American Agriculturist shows how cornstalks, formerly almost a waste product, have lately been turned to account, until now the farmer can get from \$3 to \$5 a ton for them. They play a part in the building of warships, being used to form cellulose for packing cofferdams; they are utilized in the manufacture of smokeless powder; paper pulp can be made from them; they furnish pyroxyline varnish, are useful as a packing material, and together with the leaves and tassels enter into the composition of various prepared fodders and foodstuffs.

Recent Inventions.

To protect the window frames of a building when another building is on fire a portable fire-proof curtain has been patented, having a bracket for attachment to the interior of the window, which supports an iron pole on which the curtain is hung outside the window.

Doctors for Ailing Plants.

News-papers can be neatly kept in a newly designed file, which is formed of two parallel strips of wood hinged together at the back to form a pair of jaws, several U-shaped springs being inserted in the strips to grip the front edges together and bind the backs of the papers.

For use in delivering water to a window-cleaning brush a newly designed handle is hollow and has a piston set inside, with a slot in the side of the handle by which a pin is connected to the piston to operate it, drawing water from a pail and delivering it to the brush.

Railroad cars can be easily shifted by the use of a new implement, comprising a lever, which has a pair of plates attached to one end, with curved ends to fit the flange of the wheel, a chain being hooked over the axle to increase the traction on the wheel and allow it to be revolved.

If the moon looks pale and dim, expect rain; if red, wind; and if her natural color, with a clear sky, fair weather.